

## EXPLANATORY NOTE - PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE RIFLES AND THE RGBW REGIMENT

The Constitution of the Association was first adopted following the formation of RGBW in 1994. Minor amendments were made in 2009 – and again 2011 to formalize the change of name to include The Rifles. The present revision has been prepared by the Trustees in the light of recent and proposed changes within the Army, and to bring the document properly up-to-date. In doing this the Trustees have been guided solely by the need to keep the Association a thriving and well-run organisation, and its heritage intact, and the Charity Commission is happy with the proposed changes.

The Executive Committee of the Association have examined the proposed Constitution and have agreed that they should be adopted.

The main changes which will be proposed at the AGM are:

1. The removal of 'benevolence' from the Objects in Clause 1 – because all benevolence matters are now dealt with by RHQ The Rifles.
2. The powers of the Association will now include, in Clause 2b., a power to use Association funds to maintain 'The Golden Thread' of RGBW and the Former Regiments - the concept established when The Rifles was formed, to maintain the most treasured and valuable historic traditions, badges, special objects, memorials, and Museums with their priceless contents. That concept was applied to all the Regiments that formed The Rifles.

The Museums are now our main link with the past, but the Ministry of Defence has recently decided that The Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum will lose all public funding after March 2017. It must therefore be kept going in the future at our own expense for the next 5 years, by the Regimental Charities and the Association. If the MOD withdraws their funding from The Rifles Berkshire and Wiltshire Museum within this period, then the Trustees will re-examine the funding arrangements to our museums.

To provide adequate grants to both Museums, for the next 5 years, the Trustees propose to set aside £150,000 from the Regimental Trust (which includes the Officers Charity), whose total value is around £264,000, and £150,000 from the Association's total funds of approximately £496,000. This will not, however, have any effect whatsoever on the regular funding and future of Association and Branch activities.

3. To abolish the Executive Committee, and replace it with three County Committees, in Berkshire, Gloucestershire and the City and County of Bristol, and Wiltshire. They will be entirely responsible for the Branches in their County, and one or more of the Branches outside the three Counties. Similarly, that will, have no effect on the arrangements under which the Branches are funded by the Association.

4. The other changes simply update the old-fashioned wording in the Constitution, and modernise some of the purely administrative provisions.

---

September 2016